

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 1 and 7, and add new claim 10 as follows. The present claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the above-captioned application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A roller, particularly for applying varnishes onto sheet metal plates, comprising

- a hollow roller core,
- pins for receiving the roller in a printing machine,
- coupling elements for connecting the pins with the roller core so that a roller interior is formed,

characterized in that

the coupling elements are arranged so as to be inwardly offset with respect to the roller front faces,

air exit openings are provided in a border region of the roller core outside the coupling elements, and

a channel forming element for forming a junction channel between the air exit openings and the roller interior is provided.

2. (Previously Presented) The roller of claim 1, characterized in that the channel forming element is inserted into the roller core.
3. (Previously Presented) The roller of claim 1, characterized in that the channel forming element has a L-shaped cross section so that the junction channel is formed through the channel forming element and an inner wall of the roller core.

4. (Previously Presented) The roller of claim 1, characterized in that the channel forming element is annular.
5. (Previously Presented) The roller of claim 1, characterized in that one of the coupling elements comprises at least one opening communicating with the junction channel and the roller interior.
6. (Previously Presented) The roller of claim 1, characterized in that one of the coupling elements comprises a connection element for the connection with a source of compressed air.
7. (Currently Amended) The roller of claim 1, comprising a sleeve drawn up onto the roller core ~~(air mandrel)~~.
8. (Previously Presented) A method for drawing a sleeve onto a roller core of a roller according to claim 1, wherein

an air film is formed between the sleeve and an outside of the roller core, and

the sleeve is slid or drawn onto the roller core at the side of the channel forming element.
9. (Previously Presented) A method of drawing a sleeve onto a roller core comprising the step of providing a roller according to claim 1.
10. (NEW) The roller of claim 7, wherein the roller core is an air mandrel.